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SHAME

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The infamous locals we'd rather not claim By CP Staff

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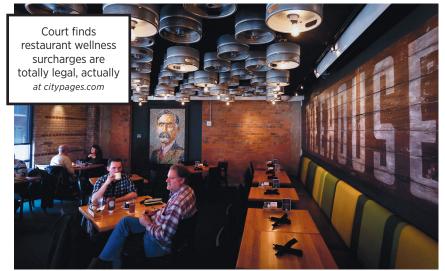
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#### THE SHORTLIST



BRIAN MARK PETERSON, STAR TRIBUNE

#### THE STAT SHEET

11/3

Date you'll need to postmark your mail-in ballots by for this November's election

#### 1.6 million

Vans and SUVs recently recalled by Honda

1,616

Total COVID-19 deaths in Minnesota as of Monday

1,219

Last year's receiving yards for Gopher star Rashod Bateman—he just announced he won't play this season

## "There is a bar on the bar at bars."

- Reader Danelle Gorra responds to "Only parts of Twin Cities bars will COVID-'close' on Aug. 1" at citypages.com.

#### VACCINE REPORT

WE'D BET MONEY that over the past few months, you've uttered a sentence that ended in "...once there's a vaccine." As Sarah Zhang notes in a recent story for the Atlantic, it's become our refrain as we try to find any comfort in the pandemic. But while it brings us no joy to report this, not only are we at least five months from having one, the FDA's former chief scientist told Zhang: "Even when a vaccine is introduced, I think we will have several months of significant infection or at least risk of infection to look forward to." Neat!

#### POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

MARY KAY drops woman caught taking down Black Lives Matter sign in northern Minnesota

**DULUTH PACK** welcomes Ivanka Trump—but not Facebook blowback

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# Minnesota Hall of Shame

The infamous locals we'd rather not claim

BY CP STAFF

or reasons that should probably be diagnosed by a medical professional, Minnesota loves to claim anyone of note who spent even a minimal amount of time here as One of Us. Vince Vaughn moved out of state before he turned 1, but don't worry-he has a star on the Minnesota Walk of Fame. But that blade cuts both ways. This state has produced and played home to its share of frauds, bullies, clowns, and straight-up killers. What follows is a list of the worst Minnesotans, from the merely embarrassing to the downright evil. Did we leave anyone out? Of course. (Lookin' at you, Derek Chauvin.) Think

of this as a small step toward recognizing that Minnesota is a great state and also occasionally home to some awful people.

#### ASSHOLES

#### **Roberta Madison**

Ever wonder what the worst of NextDoor would look like if it assumed human form? Meet Roberta Madison. The St. Paul resident was slapped with a restraining order in 2010 for, among other things, throwing feces at a neighbor's home. But that's (actually) kid's shit compared to six years later, when she took offense to trees in a new neighbor's yard. Accounts suggest she impersonated the homeowners when call-

ing an arborist, who chainsaw-ed the trees in question before the real owners could intervene. (Madison ensured she wasn't billed for the work.) Evidently emboldened by the smell of sawdust, Madison then repeatedly called 911 and the fire department, claiming other neighbors were "suspicious" about people of a "different race" running a "sex operation" out of their home. When that spate of baseless belligerence earned her another restraining order in 2017, Madison doubled down. Our neighbor from hell took to violating her court order by threatening the individuals using racial slurs, throwing glass in their yard, sticking a sex toy on their fence, flashing her titties in their general direction, and more. That final rainbow of offenses led to charges of stalking, violating a harassment order, indecent exposure, and disorderly conduct.

#### **Colin Covert**

We understand the pressures on a working journalist to churn out content. So many words have already been written, and lots of them are much better than the ones you're typing at the moment. Who wouldn't, as deadlines loom, be occasionally tempted to just cut and paste someone else's well-turned bon mots? Here's the thing, though: Don't. Do. That. Unfortunately, Colin Covert, the Star Tribune's longtime film critic, gave into that temptation not once, not twice, but repeatedly

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before his bosses finally caught him in 2018. Covert wasn't even hiding his word thievery particularly well: His favorite source to cop from was Pauline Kael, which is like a city council member trying to pass off parts of the Gettysburg Address as their own words. Though Covert initially seemed suitably sheepish, he was less so in a post-resignation interview with MPR, oddly claiming it wasn't plagiarism to use someone else's distinctive phrases without attribution if you're applying them to different movies. He called this "fair use," a legal doctrine that has no application to an ethics breach. No idea how he came up with that defense. Maybe he'd heard another plagiarist say it.

#### **Ted Yoho**

Don't you just love that queasy feeling when a terrible person in the national spotlight is unexpectedly revealed to have Minnesota roots? A few weeks ago you'd probably never heard of Florida Rep. Ted Yoho, a typically garbage Republican congressperson. And you never would've, if he hadn't called Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez a "fucking bitch" within earshot of reporters. (Ocasio-Cortez's sin was linking poverty to crime; figure out who you want to cuss out.) Yoho issued a weaselly non-apology, and had his sexism perfectly vivisected in Ocasio-Cortez's historic speech on the House floor. Well, guess what? Yoho was born in Minneapolis, and lived here till he was 11. According to Yoho's mother's obituary, his grandfather was a pharmacist who was "instrumental in naming Anoka 'The Halloween Capital of the World." Ted's probably got ol' grandpa rolling over in his grave—maybe even rising from it to haunt him on October 31, a few months before his fucking bitch ass retires, and Congress becomes more AOC's than his.

#### **Thomas Friedman**

Born and raised in St. Louis Park, this award-winning word-mangler rose to prominence after the fall of the Soviet Union by peddling a kinder, gentler twist on "greed is good." Global capitalism would spread unparalleled equality and peace, he consistently assured the managerial class in his New York Times column, famously (and incorrectly) contending that no two countries with a McDonald's have ever warred with each other. Filled with such idea-like approximations of thoughts, Friedman tomes like The World Is Flat flew off airport bookstore shelves. Tom championed the 2003 invasion of Iraq by saving sometimes America needed to tell its foes to "suck on this," and dug in his heels when said foes bit down hard instead. His writing became more baroquely incoherent ("The first rule of holes is when you're in one, stop digging. When you're in three, bring a lot of shovels.") and his





LEILA NAVIDI, STAR TRIBUNE / GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE

predictions more desperate: For years, he foresaw victory "in the next six months," like a 7-year-old promising to go to bed in five more minutes. Friedman never lost his column or his reputation, because his job isn't to be right, it's to repeat what his readers want to believe: Whether inequality, war, or environmental destruction, the solution to capitalism's outcomes is always... more capitalism.

#### Laura Ingalls Wilder

For decades, readers have been charmed by Laura Ingalls Wilder's scrappy tales of life on the prairie. But the Little House series is chock full of not-so-quaint depictions of whiteness in the pioneer era. In the first book's opening chapter, "Going West," Wilder wrote that the family sought to reside on unoccupied land "where the wild animals lived without being afraid." They find that land in Wisconsin, a place where "there were no people. Only Indians lived there." When a reader pointed out this problematic line in 1953, publishers changed "Indians" to "settlers." But that's not the only dehumanizing/racist thing about the book; one neighbor repeatedly states that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian," and much of the series deals with the family's frustrations that nearby tribes aren't cool with them squatting on their land. Pa also dabbles in blackface for a minstrel show—some publications even included an illustration of the performance—while Ma admits that she just doesn't like Native Americans. The series is a story of Manifest Destiny, the false idea that America was uninhabited, and that God wanted whites to travel West and make money off the land.

#### **Kevin Sorbo**

If you were a connoisseur of goofy '90s TV shows, you may have fond memories of Kevin Sorbo, a Minnesota State University-Moorhead grad who starred in syndicated schlock such as Hercules and Andromeda. These days, he fights his looming irrelevance by talking shit on Twitter, writing, "Not one feminist has defended Sarah Sanders" in 2019. "It seems women's rights only matter if those women are liberal." A former co-star clapped back that "the person who repeatedly tried to pressure his three-decades-younger co-star into sleeping with him, publicly shamed her on set when she refused to, and insisted

the director add unnecessary sex scenes" shouldn't "flap his gums about feminism." Other things Kevin has thoughts on: Black Lives Matter, men who grab pussy, our lord and savior Jesus Christ, and hydroxychloroquine. (Guess which one of those he doesn't care for?) When he's not making fun of Dr. Anthony Fauci, antiracists, and antifa, he's starring in quality films like *Piranha Sharks, Bernie the Dolphin 2*, and *Let There Be Light*, executive produced by Sorbo friend and noted auteur Sean Hannity.

#### VILLAINS

#### **Garrison Keillor**

Keillor's #MeToo divorce from American Public Media is enough to land him on this ignoble list. But let's focus on the few vears that followed his 2018 scandal, and the decades that preceded it. Somehow, throughout its 32-year run, Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion radio program tricked listeners into thinking it was a smart, funny love letter to Upper Midwest culture. Rather, the show's blindingly white portrayal of Minnesota life reduced us to stock characters, aw-shucks Lutherans puttering around with folksy oafishness and tablecloth-thin dimensions. APHC committed comedy's cardinal sin: lacing hack jokes with winking smugness. Then there's post-grope Keillor, who has taken the predictable heel turn favored by so many powerful men: becoming a reactionary P.C. police alarmist. Even Keillor's toady social media fans called him out for a July post that pompously questioned the notion of white privilege ("crazed self-righteous people" misunderstood his musings, Keillor wrote). Maybe we shouldn't be surprised: In 2007, the Anoka-born radio legend caught shit for his depiction of "stereotypical" gays; in 2016, he called then-Rep. Keith Ellison a "lackluster black Muslim."

#### Terri Petter

Terri Petter ran Fur-Ever Wild, a petting zoo/slaughterhouse located in Eureka Township. People would pay to interact with wolf puppies, foxes, horses, cougars, and a menagerie of other creatures. But once the animals were past peak cuteness, they would be killed for their fur or meat. According to Petter's boyfriend, Daniel Storlie, the property pelted 1,500 foxes in 2007 alone. The smell of rotting carcasses and the vermin that came to dine on them eventually caught the attention of people who lived nearby, who sued. Fur-Ever Wild next caught the attention of animal rights groups. In 2017, a federal lawsuit cited violations of the Endangered Species Act and a report from the USDA, which found an animal with an open wound, fetid green water, and "excessive" mud

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EST TWIN CITIES

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and feces in enclosures during a visit. Just as the animals were scheduled to be seized from the property, they disappeared overnight. Enter Joe Exotic, the "Tiger King," who began posting wolf picks on Facebook. Turns out Exotic had illegally purchased 28 wolves, 25 of which were eventually removed from his property (two had "disappeared," while one had died from infection). Under a settlement reached in late 2019, Petter was barred from killing gray wolves or selling their parts for five years.

#### **John Stumpf**

A guy like John Stumpf could be viewed less as an architect of vulturous banking than a symptom, if we're being charitable. If only Stumpf was. Raised in a crowded family on a central Minnesota farm, Stumpf liked to talk about the mentality that upbringing impressed on him. Fuck if we can find it in his reign as head of Wells Fargo, during which the bank pressured employees to convert "sales" (the opening of new accounts) to absurdity: eight new accounts a day, except for January, when the daily goal was 20. Feeling no choice but to cheat, workers took out extra accounts for unwitting customers, who got hit with fees. As he had throughout his career as CEO, Stumpf blamed the lowest-ranking staffers, thousands of whom were fired. Fortunately, that didn't cover the trail leading to the top. Stumpf was forced to give back \$70 million in assets and stock options, and earlier this year was recommended for a \$17.5 million fine. Ouch, right? If Stumpf and his family keep living as they're accustomed to, he might someday have to tap his \$22.5 million pension.

#### Mike Lindell

"Boy, do you sell those pillows." That was President Donald Trump, in his typical oratorical grace, praising Mike Lindell,

aka the MyPillow Guy. Before he became an unavoidable infomercial presence and Trump's buddy, Lindell was a deity-free drug addict. A handful of his dealers staged an intervention-if we're to believe Lindell, who can't resist telling the story to anyone who'll listen-and he was born again filled with entrepreneurial spirit. This he parlayed into a Chaska-based pillow empire, netting millions in revenue despite its 'F' grade from the Better Business Bureau. For some reason, Trump invited the crucifix-clad pitchman to a coronavirus briefing in March, where Lindell offered his epidemiological expertise. "With our great president, vice president, the administration and all the great people in this country praying daily, we will get through this and get back to a place that's stronger and safer than ever," Lindell effused. The virus has since killed around 150,000 Americans. Now, at Trump's urging, the pillow huckster is exploring a run for governor in Minnesota. Sleep well.

#### **Jason McLean**

When Loring Pasta Bar (now Loring Bar & Restaurant) and Varsity Theater reopened in recent years, both iconic Dinkytown establishments went out of their way to advertise their new ownership. That's because the former owner, Jason McLean, is facing \$6 million in judgements related to his alleged participation in the sexual abuse of minors at Children's Theatre Co. in the 1980s. Instead of facing justice, McLean ran off, first to California, then to his multimillion-dollar Mexican villa. Eventually, McLean divested and live music returned to the mostly shuttered Varsity, and he, surprisingly, returned to the U.S. late last year to visit a restaurant he owns in Oakland, California. "It was like seeing a ghost," one former staffer said, adding that nobody was expecting the notorious businessman to show up. Around the same time, McLean was renting his place in

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#### MONSTERS

#### Harry Hayward

America's first known serial killer was a spoiled playboy who patronized high society in Gilded Age Minneapolis. That's if you take Harry Hayward's word for it. Born wealthy, Hayward spent his three decades on earth carousing and gambling on his father's dime, eventually settling in downtown Minneapolis. It was there he met and charmed Kittie Ging, whom he loaned \$10,000 for her dressmaking business. (The cash was counterfeit.) Hayward convinced Ging to make him her beneficiary on an insurance policy, then talked a handyman into murdering her. Testimony from Hayward's brother and the handyman got Hayward sentenced to hang. Condemned, Hayward coolly confessed to killing three other people-a girlfriend, and two fellow gamblers, one of whose skulls he crushed—and said he'd considered the murder of "dozens" of others, including his brother. These tales were either the con man's final grift, a narcissist's bragging he'd brought more death than the truth, or the cold confessions of a man who saw people as a means to an end. "My god was money," said Hayward, whose hanging in 1895 was the last execution in Hennepin County.

#### **Michele and Marcus Bachmann**

Michele and Marcus Bachmann have managed to astound and abash their home state with a potent combination of staggering homophobia, contempt for science and basic facts, and generally refusing to be even remotely chill about a single goddamned thing. In 2005, Michele, eventual congressperson and presidential candidate, "ran screaming from a constituent forum,

claiming that a lesbian had attempted to keep her there against her will," in the tempered words of the Washington Post. A few years later, Marcus, a therapist who still runs a Christian counseling center with offices in Burnsville and Lake Elmo, compared gay people to "barbarians" who "need to be educated, need to be disciplined." He later insisted the audio had been doctored and he had actually been talking about children. (Is that better?) In more recent interviews, Michele has called Donald Trump "highly biblical" and "godly." She's also speculated that coronavirus might have been God punishing the Trump administration for being a little too hard on Israel, and that climate change can't be real because God already got that flooding the Earth stuff out of His system with Noah. Her favorite food is celery. Celery. These two are a power couple, and their "power" is sucking.

#### **Charles Lindbergh**

Charles Lindbergh grew up just outside Little Falls, on a farm on the banks of the Mississippi. There's a statue of him at the state Capitol, and it's easy to see why. His reputation as a legendary pilot is well earned. It's the stuff he was into on the ground that skeeves us out. In addition to aviation, Lindbergh developed a keen interest in the eugenics movement. In the '20s, he befriended renowned French surgeon Dr. Alexis Carrel, a man who once said it might be cool to "kill off the worst [of us] and keep the best, as we do in the breeding of dogs," presumably right before a swarm of bats erupted out of his mouth. Lindbergh traveled extensively in Germany in the '30s, received a huge swastika-shaped medal for his neat airplane tricks, and confessed he found the country to be "the most interesting place in the world today," and that "some of the things" he saw there "encouraged [him] greatly." He then tried to use his enormous public clout to keep his home



nation out of World War II. He claimed, in a 1941 speech, that the British and the "Jewish race" were pushing us toward war with the Nazis.

#### William Melchert-Dinkel

Employed, perversely, as a nurse, this Faribault man became obsessed with suicide-though not his own. Melchert-Dinkel lingered in online chat rooms dedicated to suicide, and talked to vulnerable people about ending their lives. Coached them, really, explaining exactly how to use a noose for maximum efficiency. Melchert-Dinkel posed as a young Asian woman, one who was often offering to make a suicide pact with "her" correspondent. Melchert-Dinkel would later admit to making suicide pacts with "about 10" people, and that five had carried out their end of the deal. One, Nadia Kajouji, was an 18-year-old Canadian who felt desperate after an unexpected pregnancy; she jumped to her death in 2008, ignoring the advice of "Cami" that she hang herself instead. When cops came asking, Melchert-Dinkel at first blamed his daughters, then confessed, admitting he'd done it for the "thrill of the chase." In 2014, Melchert-Dinkel was convicted of aiding in two suicides, Kajouji's and that of a depressed Englishman who'd taken the stranger's advice on how to hang himself. He served six months in jail and was put on probation for 10 years.

#### Michael Karkoc

Forget "just following orders." Michael Karkoc was the one giving them, according to an Associated Press investigation, which in 2015 exposed just what the longtime northeast Minneapolis resident had done. As leader of a Ukrainian fascist unit in World War II, Karkoc was said to have led the 1944 massacre of a Polish village where dozens were slaughtered, including women and children, in revenge for the killing of a Nazi SS man. Karkoc lied about

that past when he immigrated to America in 1949, and a decade later, he became a U.S. citizen. For reasons known only to him, Karkoc volunteered his war vears in a 1995 biography, penned in Ukrainian, after years attending church and working as a carpenter in Minneapolis. Both Germany and Poland found sufficient evidence implicating Karkoc, who died, at age 100, late last year without facing justice. He lived a long, peaceful life after the massacre, and was said to suffer from memory problems in later years. Lucky him.

#### John Nienstedt

The former archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis was a personal creep, on levels bad enough, using his figure of authority to make unwanted advances on men who worked in the church and felt they couldn't say no or report it. Multiple men (some who'd been as young as teens at the time) accused Nienstedt of inappropriate, predatory behavior, and one believed his career in the church was ruined because he'd said no. It gets so much worse: Nienstedt harbored or employed a handful of priests and other employees accused of sexual abuse or other offenses, and said. in a 2014 deposition, he wouldn't have reported anything to the police unless they came asking. (They didn't... until they did.) Nienstedt's Catholic church did find ways to engage the public, lobbying both for more restrictions against abortion, and, in 2012, for the amendment to put a gay marriage ban in the state constitution. The Minnesota Catholic Conference spent \$600,000 trying to pass the ban, and Nienstedt wrote parishioners that they must "understand love and sexuality through God's lens and his perfect plan for us," and reject gay marriage. A couple years later, when Nienstedt was under oath, his flock would finally learn just how far they'd been led astray.



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Please join via Zoom Thursday, August 6th, 2020 to hear expert speakers Dr. Tetyana Shippee, Odichinma Akosionu, MPH, Dr. Mai See Thao, and Alana Wright describe how ageism and racism impact the quality of care in long-term care settings, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Thursday, August 6th | 1:00 PM (CST)

For more information visit eldervoicefamilyadvocates.org/events-webinars





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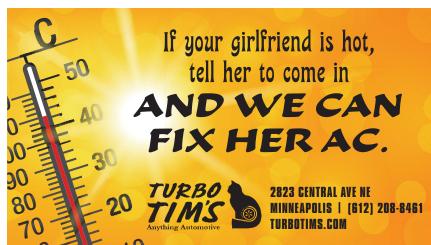




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# **SUMMERTIME SADNESS**

Calhoun Beach Club says goodbye this season



CALHOUN BEACH CLUB AND APARTMENTS



f swimming in the iconic rooftop pool atop the (soon to be renamed)
Calhoun Beach Club is your summertime luxury, you're going to have to move into the building if you want to continue to do so.

Aimco, which owns the Uptownadjacent property, announced that it will be closing the athletic facility to the public by the end of summer. The decision is basically another coronavirus cancellation.

"Over the past few months, you've likely seen news reports about the COVID-19 related challenges facing the fitness industry," a letter from "the Aimco Team" states. "Unfortunately, our club is no exception. The pandemic has presented additional obstacles related to membership and operations that have accelerated our plans to reconsider developing the space."

The owners plan to close parts of the club for an uncertain amount of time, while other areas will remain open to residents as an amenity.

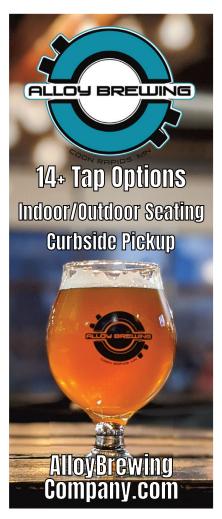
The club will officially close to the public on September 30.

This isn't the first major change the venue has made this summer; in June Aimco announced that it would be renaming the building, which had been named after Lake Calhoun, which had been named after noted pro-slavery antebellum politician John C. Calhoun.

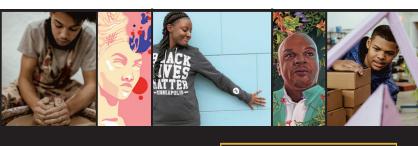
"Recent events have inspired deeper dialogue and discussion that we are engaging in," wrote Carole Olite, VP/operations at Aimco. "Today, in alliance with our broader community, we're announcing our decision to remove Calhoun from our name."

The club, located right across the street from Bde Maka Ska, opened in the 1920s.

"Many of you have been part of our fitness family for decades, and we remain grateful to you for your loyalty and kinship," the letter concludes. "While we are sad today, we are excited for the possibilities that remain ahead."







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# Dog-ppelgänger

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# JUST THE HITS

Grading the 2020 Minnesota Twins' walk-up songs



JIM MONE

BY JAY BOLLER

aseball has mercifully returned to distract from the plague. Should 30 teams, all with considerable operations staff, be traveling around the country amid a pandemic? Probably not, but shut up, we're trying to enjoy something for the first time in five months. And, setting aside the homers, strikeouts, acrobatic catches, double plays, stolen bases, gamesmanship, and stats, what's more enjoyable than walk-up music?

Each year, players get to DJ their own at-bats, choosing snippets of their favorite songs to blast through the P.A. as they approach the plate. When applied through the insufferable lens of music criticism, the results vary considerably. Here's how your 2020 Minnesota Twins fared at curating walk-up tunes for this abridged, fan-less, extremely weird but very welcome season.

#### Byron Buxton, CF

Song: "Return of the Mack" by Mark Morrison (1996) Grade: A-

This silky-smooth'90s R&B banger might have unintentional connotations, as the oftinjured Buxton seems to always be returning from the IL. But, for the athletic marvel who just named his son Blaze Jett Buxton, the swag levels are appropriately high.

#### Jorge Polanco, SS

Song: "Te Siento en Para" by Liro Shaq ft. Ceky Viciny (2017) Grade: C-

Is this a reggaeton cover of the 2002 Eminem single "Without Me"? No, goofball Dominican rapper Liro Shaq El Sofoke simply hijacked the beat, giving Polanco a turned-up track that'll briefly trick most American millennials.

#### Josh Donaldson, 3B

Song: "Shoota" by Playboi Carti ft. Lil Uzi Vert (2018)

Grade: B-

The Twins' power-hitting free agency prize could have gone with something brawnier, though we won't fault his pick from Playboi Carti, a young mumble-rap superstar who's all over TikTok. Fans who viewed the '87 and '91 squads IRL will likely find that last sentence quite confusing.

#### Max Kepler, RF

Song: "All In" by Lil Baby (2020) Grade: B

Lil Baby raps his lil' butt off on this poppy trap bop. It's a nice tempo-setter from Kepler, who pissed off the internet for a minute by wearing an All Lives Matter mask ("Didn't know what the blue line stood for," the emerging German-born slugger responded via Twitter).

#### FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

#### **Nelson Cruz, DH**

Song: "Soldado" by Juan Luis Guerra (2004)

Grade: B-

A breezy, danceable intro for the Twins' ageless, dinger-mashing star. Cruz's Dominican countryman, Guerra has racked up 21 Latin Grammys plus three standard Grammys, a hardware haul that mirrors the Boomstick's during his 2019 Twins debut: All-Star and All-MLB nods plus Silver Slugger and Edgar Martínez awards.

#### **Eddie Rosario, LF**

Song: "Bendiciones' by Bad Bunny (2020) Grade: B

Rosario shows some Puerto Rican pride with this bass-thundering jam from Bad Bunny, the Latin trap phenom who exploded after appearing on Cardi B's 2018 hit "I Like It." A year earlier, things clicked for Rosario at the plate, where he's been a consistent middle-lineup force ever since.

#### Miguel Sano, 1B

Song: "Vengo de la Pobreza" by Rochy RD and Ceky Viciny Grade: C+

A propulsive Dominican come-up anthem that translates to "I Come From Poverty." Anyone who saw the 2011 doc Ballplayer: Pelotero knows that was certainly Sano's story before the Twins signed the elite teen prospect from the Dominican Republic. Last season, after years of conditioning woes and off-field issues, Sano finally broke out as the powerhouse hitter he's always been capable of being. He's already beat COVID-19, so add "antibodies" to his 2020 scouting report.

#### Luis Arraez, 2B

Song: "Temblor" by Causa, Farruko & El Alfa (2020) Grade: D+

A cartoonish club throwaway, "Temblor" features a uniquely annoying "dooga-doogadooga-dooga" refrain. It's worth checking out the animated "concept" video, which is mostly just clips of fans twerking on TikTok.

#### Mitch Garver, C

Song: "Shining Star" by Earth, Wind, and Fire (1975)

Garver was one of several breakout stars on last year's Bomba Sqad, and who the hell could fault his choice of this iconic funk classic? "A pimpmobile time machine brought me here," YouTube user Buick Bubba rightly points out.

Honorable mention: We didn't include picks from pitchers, but it's essential to note that Randy Dobnak-the hardcore dadvibing Uber driver turned pitcher-selected "Take Me Home Country Roads" by John Denver, a masterfully on-brand song.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In her book Sticks, Stones, Roots & Bones, Stephanie Rose Bird reports that among early African Americans, there were specialists who spoke the language of trees. These patient magicians developed intimate relationships with individual trees. learning their moods and rhythms, and even exchanging non-verbal information with them. Trees imparted wisdom about herbal cures, weather patterns, and ecologically sound strategies. Until recently, many scientists might have dismissed this lore as delusion. But in his 2016 book *The Hidden* Life of Trees, forester Peter Wohlleben offers evidence that trees have social lives and do indeed have the power to converse. I've always said that you Aries folks have great potential to conduct meaningful dialogs with animals and trees. And now happens to be a perfect time for you to seek such invigorating pleasures.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Author Joanne Harris writes, "The right circumstances sometimes bennen of their our annual to the right circumstances sometimes bennen of their our annual to the right circumstances sometimes bennen of their our annual to the right circumstances sometimes bennen of their our annual to the right circumstances sometimes bennen of their our annual to the right circumstances." circumstances sometimes happen of their own accord, slyly, without fanfare, without warning. The magic of everyday things. I think that's an apt oracle for you to embrace during the coming weeks. In my opinion, life will be conspiring to make you feel at home in the world. You will have an excellent opportunity to get your personal rhythm into close alignment with the rhythm of opportunity to get your personal my unfinite close anginiher, with the hydrion creation. And so you may achieve a version of what mythologist Joseph Campbell called "the goal of life": "to make your heartbeat match the beat of the universe, to match your nature with Nature."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Author Gloria Anzaldúa writes, "I am an act of kneading, of uniting and joining." She adds that in this process, she has become "a creature that questions the definitions of light and dark and gives them new meanings." I would love for you to enage in ismiliar work right now, Gemini. Life will be on your side-bringing you lucky breaks and stellar insights if you undertake the heroic work of reformulating the meanings of "light" and "dark"—and then reshaping the way you embody those primal forces.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Pleasure is one of the most important things in life, as important as food or drink," wrote Cancerian author Irving Stone. I would love for you to heed that counsel, my fellow Crabs. What he says is always true, but it will be extraordinarily meaningful for you to take to heart during the coming weeks. Here's how you could begin: Make a list of seven experiences that bring you joy, bliss, delight, fun, amusement, and gratification. Then make a vow-even write an oath on a piece of paper-to increase the frequency and intensity of those experiences.

• C LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): At times in our lives, it's impractical to be innocent and curious and blank and receptive. So many tasks require us to be knowledgeable and self-assured and forceful and in control. But us to be knowledgeaule and self-assured and urderula and in Countrol. But according to my astrological analysis, the coming weeks will be a time when you will benefit from the former state of mind: cultivating what Zen Buddhists call "beginner's mind." The Chinese refer to it as the mind of a novice. The Koreans call it the eee mok oh? approach, translated as "What is this?" Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield defines it as the "don't-know mind." During this way to be a support to the control of the country of the control of the country of the this upcoming phase. I invite you to enjoy the feeling of being at peace with all that's mysterious and beyond your understanding

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you." Author Anne Lamott wrote injung it to a two limites, including you. Autoin Alme Lainoit white that, and now I'm conveying it to you—just in time for the Unplug-Yourself Phase of your astrological cycle. Any glitches or snafts you may be dealing with right now aren't as serious as you might imagine. The biggest problem seems to be the messy congestion that has accumulated over time in your links to sources that usually serve you pretty well. Soif you'll simply disconnect for a while, I'm betting the other incompanions are sometimes and the property of the proper that clarity and grace will be restored when you reconnect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Have you been saving any of your tricks for later? If so, later has arrived. Have you been postponing flourishes and climaxes until the time was right? If so, the coming days will be as right a time as there can be. Have you been waiting and waiting for the perfect moment before making use of favor's that life owes you and promises that were made to you? If so, the perfect moment has arrived. Have you been wondering when you would get a ripe opportunity to express and highlight the most interesting truths about yourself? If so, that opportunity is available.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "I learned to make my mind large, as the universe is large, so that there is room for paradoxes," writes Scorpio author Maxine Hong Kingston. That would be an excellent task for you to work on in the coming weeks. Here are your formulas for success. I The more you expand your imagination, the better you'll understand the big picture of your present situation—and the more progress you will make toward creating the most interesting possible future. 2. The more comfortable you are about dwelling in the midst of paradoxes, the more likely it is that you will generate vigorous decisions that serve both your own needs and the needs of your allies.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Some people will never like you because your spirit irritates their demons, says actor and director Denzel Washington. "When you shine bright, some won't enjoy the shadow you cast," says rapper and activist Talib Kwell. You may have to deal with reactions like those in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. If you do, I suggest that you don't take it personally. Your job is to be your radiant, generous self-and not worry about whether anyone has the personal power necessary to handle you radiant, generous self. The good news is that I suspect you will stimulate plenty of positive responses that will more than counterbalance the challenging one

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn occultist Peter J. Carroll tells us. "Some have sought to avoid suffering by avoiding desire. Thus they have only small desires and small sufferings." In all of the zodiac, you Capricorns are among the least likely to be like that. One of your potential strengths is the inclination to cultivate robust desires that are rooted in a quest for rich experience. Yes, that sometimes means you must deal with more strenuous ordeals than other people. But I think it's a wise trade-off, In any case, my dear, you're now in a phase of your cycle when you should take inventory of your yearnings. If you find there are some that are too timid or meager, I invite you to either drop them or pump them up.

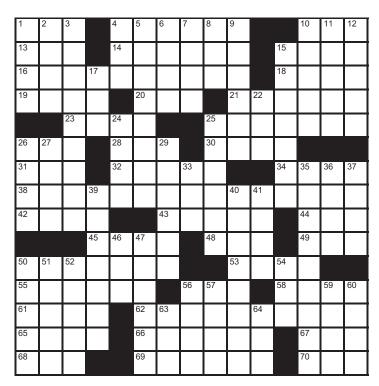
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The people who live in the town of Bazoule, Burkina Faso regard the local crocodiles as sacred. They live and work amidst the 100+ creatures, co-existing peacefully. Kids play within a frew feet of them, never worrying about safety. If dove to see you come to similar arrangements with untamed influences and strong characters in your own life, Aquarius, You don't necessarily have to treat them as sacred, but I do encourage you to increase your empathy and respect for them.

**X** PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your body naturally produces at least one quart of mucus every day. You might not be aware of it, because much of it glides down your throat. Although you may regard this snot as gross, it's quite healthy. It contains antibodies and enzymes that kill harmful bacteria quite healthy. It commands antibudes and etaily meet that an infantin bacteria and viruses. I propose we regard mucus as your prime metaphor in the coming weeks. Be on the alert for influences and ideas that might empower you even if they're less than beautiful and pleasing. Make connections with helpful influences even if they're not sublimely attractive.

#### freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

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#### **CROSSWORD**



#### **COVERAGE AREAS**

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

#### Across

- She might share your squad goals, briefly
- Curries have a lot of them
- 10 Back muscle
- 13 Stand-up comic Wong
- 14 Merciful
- "Easy Rider" star 15
- 1988 comedy that takes place in a circus
- Company originally named AuctionWeb
- Jewish youth grp.
- 20 Chargers rack them up: Abbr.
- She tore up the 2020 State of the Union
- Margarine containers
- 25 Firmly established
- Like contactless payments: Abbr.
- 28 Piece de resistance?
- Slot in the back of 30 some flat-screen TVs
- 31 Buddy List company
- Twins manager Baldelli 32
- Any "Love Train" singer
- 38 Little twerp
- Whence Goya's duchess
- See eve to eve
- Letters before "mart"
- 45 Void's partner
- 48 Start-up loan agcy.
- 49 Not drinking
- 50 1984 Wimbledon winner
- Country where Sergey Brin was born

- Meteorological disrupter
- British flying grp.
- Meal in a bowl
- London home to Picasso's "The Weeping Woman," with "The"
- "Them's the breaks" 62
- 65 Speed

55

- 66 Bunny season
- Dead letters?
- 68 Use a crowbar
- Rasta's coverage 69
- 70 Snot for a platform: Abbr.

#### Down

- 1 Pampered person?
- 2 First half of a congame?
- 1999 movie with the tagline "Mischief. Mayhem. Soap."
- "Black Monday" channel
- Entertainment that some performers have a hand in
- Chatted while typing

Dir. at roughly 2:00

- Cornfield cries
- 9 Oozed (through)
- 10 Some wolves
- 11 Placate

8

- "Get a load of this!" 12
- Holy terror 15
- Frat "T" 17
- 22 Tree with toothed leaves
- 24 "Star Trek" sheeple
- 25 **Burger King selections**
- 26 Actress Rivera of "Glee"

- 27 Horse's ass
- Actor Joel of "Community" Smoke
- 35 Stunning revelations

33

37

36

Every 365 days, briefly

- Some playground chaperones
- 40 Kept at arm's length
- They may be rough or open
- Mausoleum sight
- 47 Let free
- Had a date, say
- Coats's predecessor as National Intelligence director
- 52 Spreadsheet square
- Place to get a salt scrub
- 56 Elaborate con
- 57 Mennen product
- Make bootees, say "The Last Dance" channel 60
- 63 Besmirch
- There are 744 in Aug.

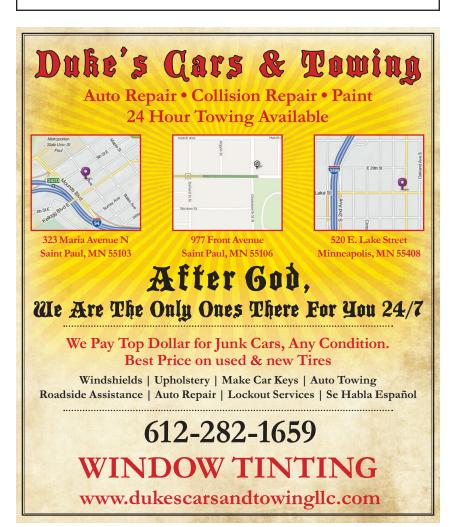
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# Toe Jam

Do I have to let this guy paint my toenails?

'm a gay guy who's involved with someone I met a few months before COVID-19. He's great: smart, funny, hot, healthy, easy to be around. It started as a hookup but we have chemistry on several levels and, without either of us having to say it, we started seeing each other regularly. We both live alone and decided to be exclusive due to the pandemic. I honestly don't know what we're doing. It's some combination of friends, fuck buddies, and married couple all at the same time.

Except that he just threw me a curveball. He told me about his foot fetish. He says he's had very bad experiences with guys who weren't into it. He's been keeping it to himself and looking at stuff online. I'm pretty vanilla and not into it, but I know kinks are a thing for a lot of guys and I'm a longtime reader of yours—being GGG is important to me. So I asked him to tell me what that means and what he wants to do. He wants to massage, wash. and kiss my feet and suck my toes. OK, that's not hot to me, but it's probably doable once in a while.

But there was more. I can't believe I'm writing this: He asked if I would let him paint my toenails sometimes! WTF? He could barely say it and looked kind of sick after he did. We're both conventional cis men. Neither of us are into fem stuff. He claimed it's not about making me femme. He says it's just a hot thing for him. I know there's no explanation for why people have kinks but do you have any ideas what this is about? I didn't respond and we haven't talked about it since. I'm not proud of that. I'm freaked out and not sure what to make of it. I don't want to ask him directly if this is the price of admission because that seems too big a price to pay.

> FREAKED OUT OVER TERRIFIC PERSON'S EROTIC REVELATION VIBE

From your panicked response, FOOT-PERV, you'd think this poor guy wanted to cut your toes off and masturbate while you bled out. Dude. He just wants to paint your toenails—as prices go, that's a small one to pay for smart, funny, and hot.

Yeah, yeah: You're both conventionally cis and presumably conventionally masculine. We'll never know what caused him to have this particular kink, but maybe he thinks this is hot because guys like you aren't supposed to have



Dan Savage

painted toenails and guys like him aren't supposed to paint toenails. This small transgression against gender norms makes his dick hard because it does. That's not always the case with all kinks, but in this instance the most obvious explanation is the likeliest explanation.

You say he's a great guy and you enjoy being with him, and you say you're a longtime reader. So you had to know that I was gonna say this: Buy some nail polish, leave it on the nightstand where he can see it, and let him paint your fucking toenails.

If you really hate it, FOOTPERV—or if your masculinity is really so fragile it shatters under the weight of nail polish-you don't have to do it again. But I gotta say, as off-the-wall sexual requests go... this is a small ask.

If you were claustrophobic and your boyfriend wanted to mummify you, or if he wanted to use you as a urinal and you weren't into piss, I would totally give you a pass. The third "G" in GGG ("good, giving, and game") has always been qualified: "game for anything-within reason." Some sexual requests are huge asks, some prices of admission are too steep, and some desires can only be accommodated by people who share them. But what your COVID-19 spouse wants to do is a small ask, in no way comparable to being turned into a mummy or used as a urinal. Smoke a little pot, put your feet on the nice man's lap, and try to take pleasure in the pleasure you're giving.

If I sound a little impatient, FOOT-PERV, I apologize. We live in a deeply sex- and kink-negative culture and our first reaction when a partner discloses a kink is often knee-jerk negative. I hope you can see the compliment this great, smart, funny, hot guy was paying you when he asked. He felt safe enough to share something with you that other guys have shamed him for. Take the compliment, buy the nail polish, pay the price.

#### mail@savagelove.net

Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage www.savagelovecast.com

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User further consents and agrees with all of the following additional terms of Self-executing Contract/Security

Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use: Payment Terms: In accordance with fees for unauthorized use of ELLIOTT JAMES

KERBY© as set forth above, User hereby consents and agrees that User shall pay Secured Party all unauthorized-use fees in full within ten (10) days of date Invoice is sent, User shall be deemed in default and: (a) all of User's property and property pledged as collateral by User, as set forth in above in paragraph "(2)," immediately becomes, i.e. is, property of Secured Party; (b) Secured Party is appointed User's Authorized Representative as set forth above in paragraph "(8)"; and (c) User consents and agrees that Secured Party may take possession of, as well as otherwise dispose of in any manner that Secured Party, in Secured Party's sole discretion, deems appropriate, including, but not limited by, sale at auction, at any time following User's default, and without further notice, any and all of User's property and interest, described above in paragraph "(2)," formerly pledged as collateral by User, no property of Secured Party, in respect of this "Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use," that Secured Party, again in Secured Partys sole discretion, deems appropriate. Terms for Curing Default: Upon event of default, as set forth above under "Default Terms," irrespective of any and all of User's former property and interest in property, described above in paragraph "(2)." in the possession of, as well as disposed of by, Secured Party, as authorized above under "Default Terms," User may cure User's default only re the remainder of User's said former property and interest property, formerly pledged as collateral that is neither in the possession of, nor otherwise disposed of by, Secured Party within twenty (20) days of date of User's default only by payment in full. Terms of Strict Foreclosure: User's non-payment in full of all unauthorized use fees itemized in Invoice within said twenty- (20) day period for curing default as set forth above under "Terms for Curing Default" authorizes Secured Party's immediate non-judicial strict collateral by User, now property of Secured Party, which is not in the possession of, nor otherwise disposed of by, Secured Party upon expiration of said twenty- (20) day default-curing period. Ownership subject to common-law copyright and UCC Financing and Security agreement filed with the UCC filing office. Record Owner: Elliott James Kerby®, Autograph Common Law Copyright © 1986. Unauthorized use of "Elliott James Kerby" incurs same unauthorized-use fees as those associated with ELLIOTT JAMES KERBY©, as set forth above in paragraph "(1)" under "Self-executing Contract/Security Agreement in Event of Unauthorized Use.

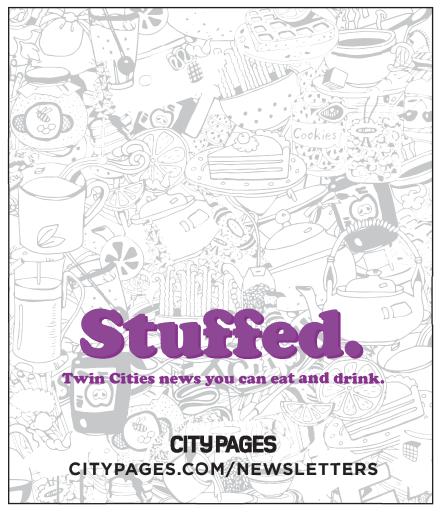




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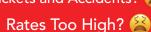
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